

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 00081 041609Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 0081

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE REPEAT INFO SPECAT EXCLUSIVE TO SECDEF AND
TO USNMR SHAPE

PERSONAL FOR GENERAL HAIG

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, NATO, GR
SUBJECT: GREECE-NATO NEGOTIATIONS: NEXT STEPS

1. IN MY PRIVATE MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS TODAY
(SEPTELS, NOTAL), HE TOLD ME THAT HE WOULD BE SENDING INSTRUCTIONS
TO HIS PERMREP AT NATO TO MAKE A FORMAL REPLY AROUND THE MIDDLE
OF JANUARY TO THE OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS CONCERNING GREECE'S
RELATIONSHIP WITH NATO. HE INDICATED THAT CARAMANLIS AND THE
"RESTRICTED CABINET," INCLUDING DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF, HAD
LAST NIGHT APPROVED THE RESPONSE TO BE MADE ABOUT TEN DAYS FROM NOW.

2. BITSIOS WAS UNWILLING TO GIVE ME ANY DETAILS IN THIS
MEETING OF THE EXACT RESPONSE TO BE MADE, OTHER THAN TO INDICATE
THAT IT WOULD BE FORTHCOMING AND MOVE THE GOG FURTHER DOWN THE
PATH OF AN ACCEPTABLE REINTEGRATION INTO NATO. BITSIOS SAID
THAT IF I WAS IN TOUCH WITH GENERAL HAIG THAT I COULD CONVEY
TO HIM THAT HIS "SUGGESTIONS" HAD BEEN VERY HELPFUL AND TAKEN
FULLY INTO ACCOUNT BY THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE CARAMANLIS
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GOVERNMENT AND THAT THE FORTHCOMING GREEK RESPONSE WOULD REFLECT
THESE.

3. BITSIOS WENT ON TO EXPRESS ANEW SOME EXASPERATION WITH
SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS' RECENT GRATUITOUS PUBLIC COMMENTS
CONCERNING GREEK-TURKISH DIFFERENCES.
"WE HAVE ABOUT HAD IT WITH

THAT MAN," BITSIOS SAID, "WITH HIS PERIODIC UNHELPFUL PUBLIC STATEMENTS HE IS SIMPLY COMPOUNDING ALL OUR PROBLEMS. WHY CAN'T HE BE PREVAILED UPON TO KEEP QUIET?", HE INQUIRED, WITHOUT REALLY EXPECTING AN ANSWER. BITSIOS INDICATED THAT HE HAD BEEN OR WOULD BE COMPLAINING TO SOME OTHER ALLIED GOVERNMENTS ABOUT LUNS IN AN EFFORT TO PUT ADDITIONAL PRESSURE ON LUNS EITHER TO REMAIN QUIET OR BE MORE DISCREET. SINCE I HAD A FULL PLATTER OF OTHER PROBLEMS AND CONTENTIOUS ISSUES TO DISCUSS WITH BITSIOS, I DID NOT THINK IT EITHER NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE AT THIS POINT TO TRY AND DEFEND LUNS, SO I JUST LET THE MATTER PASS AND MOVED ON TO OTHER TOPICS.

KUBISCH

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